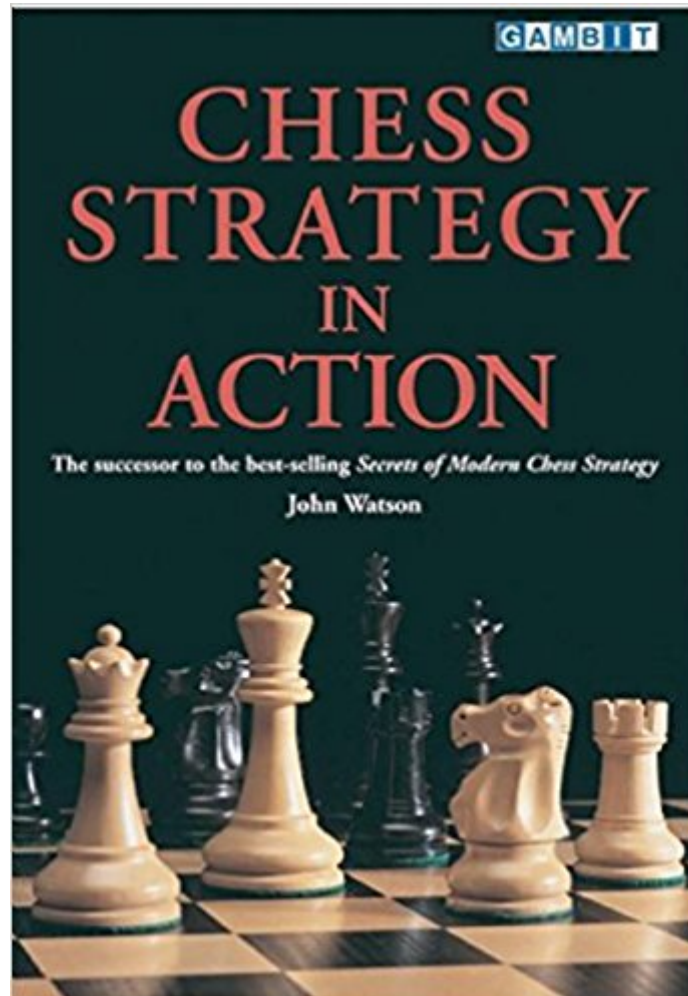




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# Chess Strategy In Action



## Synopsis

VOTED 2003 BOOK OF THE YEAR BY READERS OF CHESSCAFE John Watson fleshes out the theory presented to enormous acclaim in *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* and extends it into new areas. He illustrates the modern practice of chess with many examples from imaginative players such as Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand, Ivanchuk and tempestuous innovators such as Shirov and Morozevich. In *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*, Watson broke new ground by describing the developments in chess strategy since the time of Nimzowitsch. He explained how modern players are more willing than their predecessors to favour dynamic considerations over static ones, and how they have increasingly transcended the limiting 'rules' which influenced play in earlier times. The dominant results of Garry Kasparov and the rise of a new generation of supergrandmasters testify to the effectiveness of this dynamic and open-minded philosophy which has enriched modern chess. Those who enjoyed *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* will welcome the clarification of important concepts. *Chess Strategy in Action* can also be read on its own as an outstanding collection of modern games with thoughtful and enlightening annotations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

International Master John Watson is one of the world's most respected writers on chess. In 1999, *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*, Watson's first book for Gambit, won the British Chess Federation Book of the Year Award and the United States Chess Federation Fred Cramer Award for Best Book. His pupils include the 1997 World Junior Champion, Tal Shaked.

IM J Watson shares controversial and interesting ideas that contribute to improve our understanding

about chess from Nimzowitsch to Watson. For coach and chess player read this book must be "mandatory" even when you can be disagree.

Watson provides a much needed update on Pachman's classic, but somewhat dated work on chess strategy. The subject may seem dry and difficult to some, but the book reads like a thrill. The layout is so good and the explanations so clear that you do not need a chess board to follow the discussions of conceptual issues (although you will need to set up the pieces to analyze the technical details, of course). Watson is entertaining and instructive at the same time. Outstanding work. Five stars.

Not the book I expected. Not very helpful in improving a player's game. The book that helps me the most is one where moves are explained clearly and without excessive "what if" type lines.

As an amateur enthusiast who plays chess only for enjoyment (I do not even possess a current rating) I feel almost intimidated in trying to review this book. However, as there are many other amateur players out there, I thought it would be worth sharing my views on why this is such a great work. The first thing to note, of course, is that this book is a sequel to the multi-award-winning SECRETS OF MODERN CHESS STRATEGY. If you haven't read that book, you should - not because it is essential to the understanding of this one (it isn't) but because it is a phenomenal book. In CHESS STRATEGY IN ACTION John Watson expands on many subjects he covered in his first book. The new material is always put in context by Watson before he elaborates. In his first book Watson advocated his theory of "rule-independence." He demonstrated how the modern day greats will sometimes break all established convention regarding general rules on how best to play certain positions. In this successor, the theory is fleshed out with the help of numerous examples from the games of Anand, Kasparov, Ivanchuk, Bareev, Topalov etc. So do the old general principles, handed down over generations, still apply? Only sometimes! Watson has the rare ability to sift great games and find themes overlooked by other commentators. Thus he is able to show how and why the current chess elite can sometimes violate the golden rules that we were all brought up on. I must admit that I am a big fan of all of the Gambit books on chess strategy, which all cover different areas even though the book titles can seem a bit similar. I found CREATIVE CHESS STRATEGY (by Spanish GM Alfonso Romero) to also contain many excellent examples of rule-independence. Whether or not you subscribe to the complete Watson philosophy, the material is rich in content, splendidly written and packed with games - the index reveals around three hundred

players are represented. Like Watson's first book, CHESS STRATEGY IN ACTION is a modern-day classic.

Chess Strategy in Action is Watson's companion volume to his award winning work, Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy. In my opinion, the companion volume is just as wonderful as the first volume. Watson has in-depth narratives about every major theme of modern chess. I especially enjoyed the chapters: The Surrender of the Center, The Flank Pawns Have Their Say, The Positional Pawn Sacrifice, and An Edgy Day and a Sleepless Knight. Not only does the companion volume provide many complete-game examples of the themes discussed in the first volume, it also contains new theoretical material. These two books have immensely increased my love and appreciation for the game of chess. They are the kind of books that you will revisit for a lifetime. I highly recommend both of these works and believe they constitute a major contribution to chess theory.

This is the follow up to John Watson's Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy, rightly hailed as a pioneering work when it appeared. Chess Strategy in Action is, quite simply, another classic. It contains more complete games than the original, and fills in gaps (for example covering concepts like positional pawn sacrifices and doubled pawns. Watson's premise behind both books is the same: the top grandmasters of today are extremely flexible and undogmatic in their thinking. Watson's presentation is rich with discussion and explanation. The deep examination of the move selection process is the key to learning from this book. Superb!

Another wonderful book from John Watson. For players beyond rank beginners, the better you are, the more you'll appreciate Mr. Watson. His work makes one proud to be a chess player.

I think this book had some very good pointers. However, for an advanced beginner, or lower end intermediate player the way it explains things is difficult to understand in several areas. If you are advanced this book would be good, but it doesn't make it clear in the advertizing that this book is for advanced players only.

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